

Buena Alliance, the vice president of the Market Street Association and numerous community and neighborhood groups.

Dr. Berg has served City College for over 30 years as a professor, dean and an elected member of the Board of Trustees. In 1997, 2001 and 2006 she was President of the board.

She started in 1967 as an instructor in English, ESL, History and Civics. In 1976 she became administrative assistant to the President of the Community College Division. The following year she was appointed administrative assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Personnel. In 1980, she was named Coordinator of Personnel Relations and in 1984 became Director of Employee Relations.

Dr. Berg was originally elected to the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees in 1996 and re-elected every four years since then. She chairs the board's Community Relations Committee and is a member of the Policy Implementation Committee. Before her service on the board, Dr. Berg was the Dean of the John Adams Campus and the School of Health and Physical Education.

It is evident from Dr. Berg's career and service that she loves San Francisco and is committed to the highest quality of public policy and urban planning. Her outstanding leadership has earned her the title of one of "The Most 100 influential Women in the San Francisco Bay Area" from The San Francisco Business Times four times. The same paper chose her to be on the "Forever Honor Roll" of the most influential women in the Bay Area.

Dr. Berg received her Ed.D. in Community College Administration/Curriculum from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale in Florida, her MA in Educational Administration/College Finance from San Francisco State University and her BA in Economics from UC Berkeley.

She lives in San Francisco with her husband Peter Finnegan. They have three children, eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to acknowledge the many contributions of Natalie Berg, a great community leader and my friend.

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my opposition to the bill passed by this chamber last night, H.R. 4348, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II.

Each day that Congress fails to act on a long-term reauthorization of our nation's surface transportation programs is another day that our roads and bridges deteriorate. It's another day that our states and counties will be

unable to plan and budget for projects to improve our communities and facilitate commerce. And it's another day that workers in the hard hit construction industry will have to wait for a chance to get back on the job.

It would have been a tremendous victory for the American people if the House had come together as the Senate did last month. They passed a two year transportation bill on a strong, bipartisan vote of 74–22. It isn't a perfect bill, but it is a step forward for strengthening our economy and getting people back to work.

However, the Majority in the House has blocked every attempt to have a clean, up or down vote on the Senate's bipartisan bill. Instead, they have chosen to pursue controversial, ideologically driven proposals. In fact, the bill this chamber passed yesterday has already drawn a veto threat from the White House for its inclusion of provisions to unnecessarily expedite the Keystone pipeline project. It would also undermine environmental protection procedures that allow our constituents the opportunity to weigh in on projects that impact their communities and quality of life.

These are not small policy changes. The Keystone XL pipeline is a huge project that could have significant consequences for years to come. It deserves rigorous and objective analysis to determine whether it is in fact in the best interest of our nation's future to approve and construct such a project.

Changing our environmental protection procedures for infrastructure projects requires the same sort of thoughtful debate and careful analysis. Infrastructure projects are long-term—they fundamentally change communities. We need to make sure that the impacts of these projects, and the views of local residents and businesses, are taken into account before taxpayer funds are committed.

I do support the provisions of H.R. 4348 that will allow for full utilization of funds in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and provide for additional resources to continue restoring the Gulf Coast. I believe that these are important issues for the House and Senate to consider during their Conference.

However, I am still disappointed that the House has failed to come together on legislation that has historically been truly bipartisan. I hope that Conferees will get to work expeditiously and come up with a product that can receive bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House.

We owe it to our states, communities, and the families that depend on paychecks in the construction industry to move this forward quickly.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH CURTIS ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2012*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that

Joseph Curtis of New London, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Joseph's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2016. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Joseph brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending New London High School in New London, Ohio, Joseph was a member of the National Honor Society, Model United Nations, Academic Challenge, and a Buckeye Boys State delegate.

Throughout high school, Joseph was a member of his school's cross country and track teams and earned varsity letters in both sports. In addition, Joseph participated in various fundraisers for community-based organizations, including the Salvation Army and Red Cross. I am confident that Joseph will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joseph Curtis on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Joseph will excel during his career at the Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

CONGRATULATING ALICE EASON BALLANCE ON THE OCCASION OF APRIL 20TH BEING DECLARED AS "ALICE EASON BALLANCE DAY" IN BERTIE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 19, 2012*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a constituent and friend, Mrs. Alice Eason Ballance, who has been the epitome of service to her community. For more than fifty years, Mrs. Ballance has advocated for better educational opportunities, voting rights, and racial equality for African American citizens. On April 20, 2012, the Bertie County, North Carolina Board of Commissioners will officially declare that day "Alice Eason Ballance Day" for the County. I can think of no finer individual to bestow such an honor than this great American.

Mrs. Ballance was born Alice Eason on July 8, 1919 in the small community of Cedar Landing in Bertie County, North Carolina. She was the youngest of three children following behind brother Willie and sister Mary, reared by parents George and Cynthia Eason. She grew up on a small farm where she learned very early the value and necessity of hard work; a trait she would go on to instill in everyone with whom she worked over the years.

After graduating from Bertie County's W.S. Etheridge High School, Ms. Alice married